

**STATE OF MONTANA
INFORMATION SHEET**

HOUSE BILL NO. 179

**A BILL CREATING THE MONTANA MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND
AND AN ACCOUNT IN THE STATE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND FOR USE BY
THE FUND**

INTENT

Then intent of HB 179 is to create "The Montana Military Family Relief Fund" (MMFRF) and an account, in the state special revenue fund, to fund the program. The MMFRF provides grants to members of the Montana National Guard, and their families, when the National Guardsman is activated for federal service in support of a contingency operation.

The MMFRF provides three types of grants:

1. \$250 status-based grants to each family member of a Montana National Guardsman, upon federal activation of the military member for a contingency operation of more than 30 days;
2. Up to \$2,000 in needs-based grants to a qualifying National Guardsman, or a family member of a National Guardsman, upon federal activation of the military member for a contingency operation for more than 30 days; and
3. A \$2,000 casualty-based grant to a National Guard member who sustains a non-lethal injury in the course of or related to combat as a direct result of hostile action while serving on federal duty in support of a contingency operation.

HB 179 provides for a transfer of \$1million from the general fund to establish the MMFRF account in the state special revenue fund. Money in the special revenue fund is statutorily appropriated to the MT Department of Military Affairs in order to make MMFRF grants. HB 179 also provides that the MMFRF may be funded via monetary contributions, gifts, and grants, and through a voluntary state income tax checkoff election.

CONCLUSION

